

Draft Environmental Assessment

To Allow Limited Use of Indiana Fish and Wildlife Properties  
for Field Trials

Glendale, Pigeon River, Tri-County, and Winamac  
April 2002

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Division of Federal Aid

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# Draft Environmental Assessment to Allow Limited Use of Indiana Fish and Wildlife Properties for Field Trials.

## **1. Purpose and Need**

### **1.1 Purpose**

The purpose of the assessment is to accurately define the type of activity proposed for the fish and wildlife area and then to assess environmental impacts of the proposed action. The Division of Fish and Wildlife hopes to allow limited use of fish and wildlife properties for smaller field trials that will not have negative environmental or biological impacts. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ( FWS) audit findings specified that all field trial/test activity must stop until such activities were properly reviewed, documented and amended into the appropriate Federal Aid grants. The division proposes to accurately and precisely define acceptable types of field trial/test activity and to amend field trial plans into the appropriate Federal Aid grants.

### **1.2 Need**

The Division of Fish and Wildlife 1998 Audit and Programmatic Review found that field trial activity on some Division of Fish and Wildlife properties had expanded to the point that primary property uses were excluded and habitat disruption was occurring. The FWS and Division of Fish and Wildlife have determined, following a national policy review, that certain specific types of field trial/test activity can occur without interfering with the purpose for which the land was acquired, developed, and/or managed.

Further, the Division of Fish and Wildlife has determined that appropriate field trial/test activity would benefit sportsmen and women in Indiana and wishes to proceed with the necessary process to allow specific types of trial and test activity defined in this document.

There is a continuing interest by part of our constituency base in field trial /test activity. The Division is attempting to develop a program that is compatible with Federal Aid regulations on property purchased, developed and/or managed with Federal Aid assistance.

### **1.3 Decisions That Need to Be Made**

The Service's regional Director will select one of the alternatives analyzed in detail and will also determine whether that alternative would result in a significant impact to the human environment, thereby requiring an Environmental Impact Statement or if a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is appropriate.

## **1.4 Background**

Many activities may be defined as dog field trials. As applied here, the term means competition in which hunting dogs are tested for the abilities to perform specific tasks for which a breed was developed. A “trial” may be formally organized by a regional or national organization and may include substantial entry fees and prize money. At the other end of the spectrum is the informal field trial conducted by a local club. Trials include pointer trials conducted and viewed from horseback, and non-horseback events such as, pointer, flusher, retriever, beagle, and coon dog trials. Pen-raised game birds such as pheasants or quail are usually placed on the course for dogs to point, flush, or retrieve. These birds may or may not be shot for retrieval. Different trials have very different site and management requirements. Formally organized horseback trials require the largest sites and the most intensive site management. Management includes annual mowing of “courses” and “gallery trails” for spectators, as well as development of specific woody cover and/or food plot areas used as “objectives”. The largest national trials attract large numbers of dogs, horses, and mounted dog handlers, judges and spectators. They may last for a week or more. Organizers may require that stables, dog kennels, camping and/or equipment storage areas and food service, dining and meeting facilities be available on the site. They may also demand and receive on site services such as clean up, traffic management, and assistance with trial activities. Informal trials and some formal trials, for example retrievers, may be accomplished on very limited areas over a day or a weekend with little or no management of vegetation or habitats and no infrastructure requirements. At the conclusion of competition, a winner and sometimes a runner-up dog is named. Cash prizes and additional prizes such as trophies are awarded for the winner and runner-up dogs. The real prize for winning a large national tournament, however, is the increased value of the championship dog and the value of their offspring.

Audit findings released by the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in July 1998 determined that field trials, as conducted on Federal Aid Purchased properties managed by the Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife, were not federal aid compatible uses. These findings were reported in a document titled “Programmatic Review of the Indiana Field Trial Program at Indiana Fish and Wildlife Areas” in December 2000. The programmatic review concluded that field trial activity of any sort could not be continued unless specifically amended into federal aid grants. Further, the review required that these amendments include policies and guidelines that would ensure the field trial/test activity would not interfere with the purpose for which the lands were either acquired, developed, and/or managed.

In 2001 the FWS reviewed field trial and test policies at the national level and determined that certain types of field trials and tests and certain levels of field trial/test activity are legitimate activities. These activities could be conducted on lands purchased with Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Federal Aid funds provided the activities did not destroy habitats or displace other primary property uses. The results of this review are summarized in a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service memo dated May 16, 2001.

Using this guidance, the Division of Fish and Wildlife responded to the programmatic review with a grant amendment ending all field trial activity and providing for restoration of any and all habitats

disrupted by field trial activity. This amendment brought the Division into compliance with the audit findings and maintained Federal Aid funding for the entire Division of Fish and Wildlife .

## **1.5 Issues and Concerns**

Issues and concerns were expressed in the programmatic review (Appendix E).

## **2. Alternatives, Including the Proposed Action**

### **2.1 Alternatives Not Considered for Detailed Analysis**

Only three alternatives are considered. Other alternatives that could be developed involved more or fewer regulations on the field trials. More regulation would not offer any further protection to the environment and would provide unnecessary limitations to the constituency that wish to hold trials on the properties. Less regulation would encourage habitat damage and move the activity toward non-compliance.

### **2.2 Alternatives Carried Forward for Detailed Analysis**

#### **2.2.1 Alternative A: Allow Limited Field Trials - Proposed Action**

Alternative A: Allow field trial/test activities according to the definitions listed above on certain Fish and Wildlife Properties and allow non compatible trials to use the newly purchased Inter-Lake area (3000 acres purchased with state funds). The proposed activity should be permitted at, and limited to Glendale, Tri-County, Winamac, and Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife Areas (see attached location and property maps).

Field trials and tests are specifically limited to the activities defined as follows:

Field trial activities will be limited to February 1 through April 15, during daylight hours only. This will eliminate any interference with hunting seasons. A maximum of ten (10) individual days during this period will be available for trial/test activities at each property. No trial will exceed two consecutive days in length. Only one trial/test will be hosted per day. Persons participating in, judging, or observing field trial/test events are restricted to walking. The banning of horseback trials will eliminate large trials. Therefore no restrictions on the numbers of participants, either dogs or humans, is necessary. The permitted trials should have fewer than 100 dogs and under 200 people. We believe that the trials run under these rules will not be large enough to attract either large entry fees or large prizes. Normally prizes are trophies or ribbons with a rare cash prize of around \$25 to about \$250.

Field trial/testing activities will not occupy more than a total 100 acre block in an area

designated by the property manager. This area can be selected in different locations within the field trial area by the property manager to prevent any cumulative affect. No vegetation management will be undertaken by any party to accommodate or enhance the use of the property for these activities. The Department will not provide any building, equipment, supplies, fixtures, etc. to accommodate these activities. The event will take place in an area designated by the property manager.

No other type of field trial or test activity will be conducted unless specifically reviewed and approved according to Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration regulations and procedures.

The Department of Natural Resources will provide an alternative site (for field trials that are not compatible with federal use guidelines) on a recently acquired tract of 3000 acres of reclaimed mine land purchased without federal funds. The Division will provide technical advice during the initial set up period.

### **2.2.2 Alternative B: Allow Limited Field Trial Use and Phase out after 10 Years**

Alternative B: Allow field trial/test activities according to the definitions listed above on certain Fish and Wildlife Properties and allow non compatible trials to use the newly purchased Inter-Lake area (3000 acres purchased with state only funds). The proposed activity should be permitted at, and limited to Glendale, Tri-County, Winamac, and Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife Areas (see attached location and property maps).

Field trials and tests are specifically limited to the activities defined as follows:

Field trial activities will be limited to February 1 through April 15, during daylight hours only. This will eliminate any interference with hunting seasons. A maximum of ten (10) individual days during this period will be available for trial/test activities at each property. No trial will exceed two consecutive days in length. Only one trial/test will be hosted per day. Persons participating in, judging, or observing field trial/test events are restricted to walking. The banning of horseback trials will eliminate large trials. Therefore no restrictions on the numbers of participants, either dogs or humans, is necessary. The permitted trials should have fewer than 100 dogs and under 200 people. We believe that the trials run under these rules will not be large enough to attract either large entry fees or large prizes. Normally prizes are trophies or ribbons with a rare cash prize of around \$25 to about \$250.

Field trial/testing activities will not occupy more than a total 100 acre block in an area designated by the property manager. This area can be selected in different locations within the field trial area by the property manager to prevent any cumulative affect. No vegetation management will be undertaken by any party to accommodate or enhance the use of the property for these activities. The Department will not provide any building, equipment,

supplies, fixtures, etc. to accommodate these activities. The event will take place in an area designated by the property manager.

The number of days available for field trials will be phased out to zero after 10 years.

No other type of field trial or test activity will be conducted unless specifically reviewed and approved according to Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration regulations and procedures.

The Department of Natural Resources will provide an alternative site (for field trials that are not compatible with federal use guidelines) on a recently acquired tract of 3000 acres of reclaimed mine land purchased without federal funds. The division will provide technical advice during the initial set up period.

### **2.2.3 Alternative C:(No Action)**

Alternative C: No Action. This alternative will prevent any field trials from occurring on any of state lands that were purchased, developed or managed with Federal Aid assistance. This alternative would not require special restrictions.

## **3. Affected Environment**

### **3.1 Physical Characteristics**

This proposal affects four Fish and Wildlife properties located in Indiana. They are as follows:

#### **Glendale Fish and Wildlife Area - located in south west central Indiana near Washington, Indiana**

Glendale includes upland fields, woodlands, a marsh, a 1400 acre lake and 25 ponds ranging in size from 1/4 acre to 25 acres. Upland fields vary from flat to gently rolling and make up 5500 acres of the property. About 550 to 650 acres of Glendale are tenant farmed each year, while other fields are left fallow or are planted to dove fields or food plots. Wood lots vary in size from a few acres to 80 acres and total 1,200 acres of the property.

The habitat in the trials area consists of primarily open upland fields, gently rolling terrain and a small pond. Some small wood lots or wooded fence rows are also found. There are parking lots nearby and several rest rooms on the property. The area has been used for field trials since the early 70's.



### **Tri-County Fish and Wildlife Area - located in north east Indiana near N. Webster, Indiana**

Tri-County Fish and Wildlife Area is located in the heart of the lake region of northeastern Indiana, approximately 50 miles southeast of South Bend and 45 miles northwest of Ft. Wayne in Kosciusko and Noble Counties. Ten natural lakes and thirty-two man-made impoundments dot the surrounding landscape, contributing to the setting that attracts outdoor enthusiasts to Tri-County. The area is composed of flat to rolling upland fields and gradual to steep slopes of oak-hickory woodlands, falling off to depressions of wetlands and natural lakes. Soils vary considerably from deep, moderately well drained, gently sloping loam to a deep, well-drained, moderately sloping sand, with outcrops of gravel. The area has average annual precipitation of just under 35", average temperatures of 50 degrees and a growing season of 150 to 160 days. The elevation varies from a high of 950 to a low of 868 feet above sea level. Representative cover types include crop/fallow 900 acres, brush 910 acres, hardwood 985 acres, conifer 66 acres and water/marsh 685 acres bringing the total acreage for Tri-County to 3,546.

The habitat in the trials area is a mixture of small impoundment surrounded by old fields, prairie grass fields and some small grain food plots. The rest of the area is pretty much the same, except with some additional fence row and wooded habitat. There are several parking lots nearby. There are also several rest rooms located on the property. If a field trial organization wishes to bring a Port-a-John, there are several locations for them to put it. This particular area has been used for field trials since the early 80's.

### **Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife Area - located in north west Indiana near Angola, Indiana**

The topography of Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife area has been strongly influenced by glaciers. The bottom lands are glacial out-wash plains of nearly level to moderately sloping knolls and Eolian dunes. The uplands are till plains of nearly level loamy sands. Pigeon River consists of 4000 acres of crop and fallow fields, 1000 acres of brush/shrub, 4000 acres of hardwood/conifer and 2600 acres of water/wetland.

The field trial area is flat to gently sloping Plainfield sand and Oshtemo sands. The vegetation consists of upland warm season grass, cool season grass and brushy to wooded fence rows. There are parking lots close to the field trial areas. There are several rest rooms located on the property. The area has been used for field trials since the early 70's.

### **Winamac Fish and Wildlife Area - located in north central Indiana near Winamac, Indiana**

Winamac Fish and Wildlife Area consists of 4,670 acres covered by approximately 47% timber. Second growth oak forests, with an occasional pignut hickory, dominate most of the upland areas, which consist of Plainfield fine sands and Berrien loamy sands. The lower wet Maumee and Newton fine sandy loams and mucky loams are covered mainly by quaking aspen, and occasional big-tooth aspen, and black willow. The remaining 53% of open areas consists of crop fields, grass legume strips, fallow fields covered with perennial grasses and a few low marshy areas.

The field trial areas consist of primarily open grasslands, scattered food plots, small pockets of brush and shrubs, and small areas of oak woodlands. There are parking lots available near the new

designated field trial areas. Several rest rooms are located on the property. Field trials have been held in the new designated field trial areas since 1940's.

## 3.2 Biological Environments

### 3.2.1 Habitat/vegetation

The properties in question consist of a variety of successional stages of habitat. These are maintained by commonly used wildlife management techniques such as burning, tenant farming and clearing. The cover types vary from plowed ground to mature forest. All of these properties are intensively managed and provide hunting, fishing, trapping, viewing, and shooting range opportunities for many Hoosiers. The areas differ in their species management emphasis as seen in Table 1.

Table 1: Acres managed on Glendale, Pigeon River, Tri-County, and Winamac Fish and Wildlife Areas.

PROPERTY	UPLAND GAME	WOODLAND	WATERFOWL/ WETLAND	MOURNING DOVE	SHOREBIRD
Glendale	4890	1250	1700	75	0
Pigeon River	5200	5200	1000	200	0
Tri County	1250	1600	650	0	0
Winamac	2500	1900	100	60	0

### 3.2.2 Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species

The affected properties are within the range of the following species:

Federal Endangered: Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*) - critical habitat: Rays (Greene County) and Big Wyandotte (Crawford County) Caves  
Trees throughout the entire state are potential summer habitat.

Federal Endangered: Mitchell's Satyr Butterfly (*Neonympha mitchellii*) - critical habitat: NA  
Indiana counties: LaGrange, La Porte

Federal Endangered: Clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*) - critical habitat: NA  
Indiana Counties: Carroll, Dekalb, Fulton, Kosciusko, Marshall, Pulaski, Tippecanoe, White

Federal Endangered: Northern Riffleshell (*Epioblasma torulosa rangiana*) - critical habitat: NA  
Indiana Counties: Dekalb, Pulaski

Federal Endangered: Tubercled-Blossom Pearlymussel (*Epioblasma torulosa torulosa*) - critical habitat: NA

Indiana Counties: Carroll, Fountain, Gibson, Fulton, Jackson, Knox, Posey, Pulaski, Sullivan, Tippecanoe, Vermillion, Vigo, Warren (possibly extirpated from those counties)

Federal Threatened: Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) - critical habitat: NA  
Nesting and wintering eagles may occur statewide although most of the nesting to this date have been in the southern one-half of the state.

Federal Threatened: Copperbelly Water Snake (*Nerodia erythrogaster neglecta*) - critical habitat NA

Indiana counties: Kosciusko, St. Joseph, Steuben

Federal Candidate: Massasauga Rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenatus catenatus*) - critical habitat: NA  
Indiana Counties: Allen, Carroll, Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaGrange, LaPorte, Marshall, Noble, Porter, Pulaski, Starke, Steuben

### 3.2.3 Other Wildlife Species

The following are the species commonly hunted or trapped on the various properties.

Rabbit	Deer
Quail	Duck
Squirrel	Goose
Pheasant	Turkey
Grouse	Red Fox
Woodcock	Gray Fox
Snipe	Raccoon
Dove	Opossum

## 3.3 Land Use

All of the Fish and Wildlife properties mentioned have directed their efforts toward the goal of providing quality hunting, fishing, trapping and other compatible use opportunities without depleting the resource ( Table 2 below).

Table2: Property use in user days on Glendale, Pigeon River, Tri-County, and Winamac Fish and Wildlife Areas

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>Glendale</b>	<b>Pigeon River</b>	<b>Tri-County</b>	<b>Winamac</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
Hunting (Gun)	6,033	16,648	5,287	3,940	<b>31,908</b>
Hunting (Archery)	1,499	5,126	1,484	1,771	<b>9,880</b>
Hunting (Night)	92	1,262	190	148	<b>1,692</b>
Trapping		1,143	275		<b>1,418</b>
Shooting range (Gun)		5,784	6,926	4,000	<b>16,710</b>
Shooting Range (Archery)		1,112	207	700	<b>2,019</b>
Field Trials	730	88	2,800	250	<b>3,868</b>
Dog Training	244	2,770	800	225	<b>4,039</b>
Fishing (Open)	64,266	43,650	7,640	1,262	<b>116,818</b>
Fishing (Ice)	56	1,100	740	65	<b>1,961</b>
Spear Fishing		500			<b>500</b>
Boating/Canoeing	476	26,675	160		<b>27,311</b>
Camping	28,377	13,576			<b>41,953</b>
Picnicking	1,849	4,100			<b>5,949</b>
Hiking	2,415	8,450	235	850	<b>11,950</b>
Bird-watching/ Nature Studies	5,045	22,250	87		<b>27,382</b>
School Study Group	53	975	850	150	<b>2,028</b>
Military Use					<b>0</b>
Mushroom/Berry/ Nut Picking	1,508	12,700	1,125	550	<b>15,883</b>
Sightseeing	98,651	121,000	28,806	12,350	<b>260,807</b>
Other			18,225	1,100	<b>19,325</b>
<b>AREA TOTAL</b>	<b>211,294</b>	<b>288,909</b>	<b>75,837</b>	<b>27,361</b>	<b>603,401</b>
<b>TOTAL CONSUMPTIVE</b>	<b>72,190</b>	<b>72,199</b>	<b>16,416</b>	<b>7,411</b>	<b>168,216</b>
<b>TOTAL NON-CONSUMPTIVE</b>	<b>139,104</b>	<b>216,710</b>	<b>59,421</b>	<b>19,950</b>	<b>435,185</b>
<b>% NON-CONSUMPTIVE</b>	<b>65.83%</b>	<b>75.01%</b>	<b>78.35%</b>	<b>72.91%</b>	<b>72.12%</b>

### **3.4 Cultural/ Paleontological Resources**

Much of Indiana was used extensively by Native Americans as home sites or travel lanes. These areas are normally surveyed for artifacts before any disturbance is carried out.

### **3.4 Local Socio-economic Conditions**

All properties are located in rural areas. The surrounding area is farmed extensively as a major income source.

## **4. Environmental Consequences**

### **4.1 Alternative A: (Proposed Action)**

#### **4.1.1 Habitat Impacts**

The proposed action will have no adverse effects on the habitat. The field trials will be smaller and will be held on 100 acre parcels of land. The ability of the property manager to move the 100-acre area that will be affected to different areas within the property will prevent any habitat damage. If weather conditions, such as heavy rain, could cause problems with habitat damage on a property the property manager does have the authority to cancel the trial to prevent damage.

#### **4.1.2 Biological Impacts**

Field trials have been limited to 10 days of actual trial days. This coupled with the ability of the property manager to pick different sites for the trials will prevent any adverse impacts to the animals in the area.

#### **4.1.3 Listed Species**

There are several listed species that include the properties in their range. However the animals have either not been recorded on the properties or the activities involved in trials will not impact these animals. Section seven clearance is currently in effect for all of the properties listed in the grant. A clearance will accompany the amendment to the grant to insure compliance.

Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*) - critical habitat: Ray's (Greene County) and Big Wyandotte (Crawford County) Caves

Trees throughout the entire state are potential summer habitat. The major threat to the Indiana Bat during the field trial period is in cutting brood trees. Since no habitat modification will be done for the trials, there is no danger to the species.

Federal Endangered: Mitchell's Satyr Butterfly (*Neonympha mitchellii*) - critical habitat: NA  
Indiana counties: LaGrange, La Porte

There have been no reports of this species on any the Fish and Wildlife Areas in question.

Federal Endangered: Northern Riffleshell (*Epioblasma torulosa rangiana*) - critical habitat: NA  
Indiana Counties: Dekalb, Pulaski

All activity will occur in upland habitat or near manmade ponds.

Federal Endangered: Clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*) - critical habitat: NA

Indiana Counties: Carroll, Dekalb, Fulton, Kosciusko, Marshall, Pulaski, Tippecanoe, White

All activity will occur in upland habitat or near manmade ponds.

Federal Endangered: Tubercled-Blossom Pearlymussel (*Epioblasma torulosa torulosa*) - critical habitat: NA

Indiana Counties: Carroll, Fountain, Gibson, Fulton, Jackson, Knox, Posey, Pulaski, Sullivan, Tippecanoe, Vermillion, Vigo, Warren (possibly extirpated from those counties)

All activity will occur in upland habitat or near manmade ponds.

Federal Threatened: Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) - critical habitat: NA

Nesting and wintering eagles may occur statewide, although most of the nesting to this date have been in the southern one-half of the state. If nests are located on the property, managers will create zones around nests and relocate field trials so as not to cause interference.

Federal Threatened: Copperbelly Water Snake (*Nerodia erythrogaster neglecta*) - critical habitat NA

Indiana counties: Kosciusko, St. Joseph, Steuben

There have not been any recent reports of a Copperbelly Water Snake (*Nerodia erythrogaster neglecta*) being sighted on these properties.

Federal Candidate: Massasauga Rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenatus catenatus*) - critical habitat: NA

Indiana Counties: Allen, Carroll, Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaGrange, LaPorte, Marshall, Porter, Pulaski, Starke, Steuben

In northern Indiana, Massasaugas typically emerge from hibernation mid-April, and disperse within a week or two. In some years, warm conditions may stimulate emergence as early as late March. While Winamac and Tri-County are in the historic range of the animal, these snakes have not been found on either property in the past 10 years. Pigeon River has had about 10 sightings in the last 10 years and none by the field trial participants. In the rare chance that one might be found, the field trial can easily be relocated.

#### **4.1.4 Cultural Resources**

The activities involved in the trials will not affect any cultural resources. There will be no manipulation of habitat for trials.

#### **4.1.5 Cumulative Impacts**

The activities involved in the trials have been held on Winamac since the 1940's, on Tri-County since the early 80's, and on Pigeon River since the 1970's. The typical trial on these areas is small with few, if any, horses and few participants. There have been no long term affects. Glendale trials have been held for about 30 years and have done considerable damage in the past. They often require many days of work to prepare the area and to repair damage on 20 miles of trials and some 30 stream crossings. This alternative will prevent damage and not require preparation time. Future field trials will be restricted to these areas. Once the larger trials use Inter-Lake area, they will find the area meets their needs and will probably not want to leave for any other area.

#### **4.1.6 Public Opinion**

Public sentiment clearly shows that these activities are desirable if conducted in a legitimate manner.

#### **4.1.7 Environmental Justice**

Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, 59 Federal Register 7629 (1994), directs federal agencies to incorporate environmental justice in their decision making process. Federal agencies are directed to identify and address as appropriate, any disproportionately high and adverse environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority or low-income populations

No environmental justice issues exist for any of the alternatives. The property is currently unoccupied and unused for agricultural, industrial or any other economic activity. None of the alternatives would create any environmental pollution. No minority or low-income populations would be displaced or negatively affected in any other way by the proposed action or any alternative.

### **4.2 Alternative B:**

#### **4.2.1 Habitat Impacts**

(Same as Alternative A)

.

#### **4.2.2 Biological Impacts**

(Same as Alternative A)

#### **4.2.3 Listed Species**

(Same as Alternative A)

(Same as Alternative A)

#### **4.2.4 Cultural Resources**

(Same as Alternative A)

#### **4.2.5 Cumulative Impacts**

(Same as Alternative A)

#### **4.2.6 Public opinion**

Public sentiment clearly shows that these activities are desirable if conducted in a legitimate manner. There may be some protest about the phase out of field trials.

#### **4.2.7 Environmental Justice**

(Same as Alternative A)

### **4.3 Alternative C: (No Action)**

#### **4.3.1 Habitat Impacts**

Trials will not be held; therefore there will be no impacts.

#### **4.3.2 Biological Impacts**

Trials will not be held; therefore there will be no impacts.

#### **4.3.3 Listed Species**

Trials will not be held; therefore there will be no impacts.

#### **4.3.4 Cultural Resources**

Trials will not be held; therefore there will be no impacts.

#### **4.3.5 Cumulative Impacts**

Trials will not be held; therefore there will be no impacts.

#### **4.3.6 Public opinion**

Public opinion clearly shows that there would be a negative response to a decision not to allow this activity when the activity is conducted in a manner consistent with Federal and State guidelines for field trial/test activity on lands purchased with Federal Aid funds.

#### **4.2.7. Environmental Justice**

Executive order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, 59 Federal Register 7629 (1994), directs federal agencies to incorporate environmental justice in their decision making process. Federal agencies are directed to identify and address as appropriate, any disproportionately high and adverse environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority or low-income populations

No environmental justice issues exist for any of the alternatives. The property is currently unoccupied and unused for agricultural, industrial or any other economic activities. None of the alternatives would create any environmental pollution. No minority or low-income populations would be displaced or negatively affected in any other way by the proposed action or any alternative.



#### 4.4 Summary of Environmental Consequences by Alternative

Consequence Matrix

Consequences	Alternative A Limited Trials	Alternative B Limited Trials Phased Out	Alternative C No Action
Habitat Impacts	none, no habitat modification	none, no habitat modification	none
Biological Impacts	none, limited days, time of year	none, limited days, time of year	none
Listed Species	none, either not present or site selection	none, either not present or site selection	none
Cultural Resources	none, no habitat modification	none, no habitat modification	none
Cumulative Impacts	none	none	none
Environmental Justice	none	none	none
Public Acceptance	high, local clubs want to trial	medium, local clubs want to trial	low, local clubs want to trial

## 5. List of Preparers

Name	Degrees	Years of Experience
Gary Armstrong, Federal Aid Coordinator	BS Fisheries and Wildlife Biology Certified Fisheries Scientist	26 years
John Olson, Wildlife Staff Specialist	BS Wildlife Science MS Wildlife Science Certified Wildlife Biologist	31 years
Mark Reiter, Wildlife Staff Specialist	BS Wildlife Certified Wildlife Biologist	22 Years

## 6. Consultation and Coordination with the Public and Others

A list of meetings is to be found in Appendix C.

### List of Appendices

- Appendix A: Map showing the location of Fish and Wildlife Properties in the State
- Appendix B: Property map of each property outlining the field trial area
- Appendix C: List of people contacted
- Appendix D: Copy of the grant amendment
- Appendix E: Copy of the programmatic review